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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/760,282	01/12/2001	Koichi Ito	4041J-000354	2662
27572	7590	11/20/2003	EXAMINER	
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 828 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303			FORD, JOHN K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3753	

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.


The reply filed on September 8, 2003 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): a translation was required to demonstrate that applicants were entitled to the earlier priority date of JP 2000-9966 as to all of the currently claimed subject matter to eliminate JP 2000-43537 and JP 2000-43536 as references. MPEP 201.15 states that the Examiner can require a translation. The Examiner did not use JP 2000-43537 and JP 2000-43536 in any rejection because he wasn't sure of their status as references and thought that applicants might have some reasonable explanation for why they were not prior art and why they had not been cited by applicants/assignee pursuant to their Rule 56 duties. Applicants have now admitted in the record that JP 2000-43537 and JP 2000-43536 are available under 35 USC 102(a)/103, thus a translation of JP 2000-9966 is required to either eliminate them or include them. The current independent claims do not appear to distinguish over at least of these references.

As well applicants request that claims 9 and 11 be rejoined (Paper No. 10, Page 9, middle) but gives no reasons whatsoever. Please provide reasons and the Examiner will reconsider. See 37 CFR 1.111, which requires applicants to submit a full response to the previous office action.

Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 3743

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to John Ford at telephone number 703-308-2636.



**John K. Ford**  
**Primary Examiner**